

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system comprising:
  - a fuel cell body;
  - a first portion and a second portion which cooperate with each other to jointly form a passage for hydrogen exhausted from the fuel cell body;
  - a hydrogen exhaust valve disposed in the passage between the first portion and the second portion; and
  - a spring member interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve and one of the first portion and the second portion to urge the hydrogen exhaust valve against the other one of the first portion and the second portion,  
wherein the first portion and the second portion are directly fixed to each other and are both continuously supplied with heat from the fuel cell body following start up of the fuel cell body.
2. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein  
the first portion includes at least one of a gas-liquid separation unit supplied with heat from inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body and an end plate provided in a stack configured by the fuel cell body and supplied with heat liberated by the stack.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein  
the second portion is a hydrogen processing unit supplied with heat from inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body.
5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein the hydrogen processing unit includes at least one of a dilution unit and a combustion unit.

6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein one of the first portion and the second portion includes a cover formed with an internal space that accommodates the hydrogen exhaust valve; and the other one of the first portion and the second portion closes the internal space of the cover within which the hydrogen exhaust valve is disposed.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogen exhaust valve is fixed to the first portion and the second portion.
10. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein seal mechanisms are respectively interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve and each of the first portion and the second portion.
11. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, further including:  

a plurality of the hydrogen exhaust valves disposed in the passage; and  
a plurality of spring members interposed between the plurality of hydrogen  
exhaust valves and one of the first portion and second portion to urge the plurality of  
hydrogen exhaust valves against the other one of the first portion and the second portion.